

Remarks

Claims 1 through 31 are currently pending. The Examiner has required that the present application be restricted to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to a juice beverage, classified in class 426, subclass 599
- II. Claims 25-31, drawn to a process of making a juice beverage, classified in class 426, subclass 407

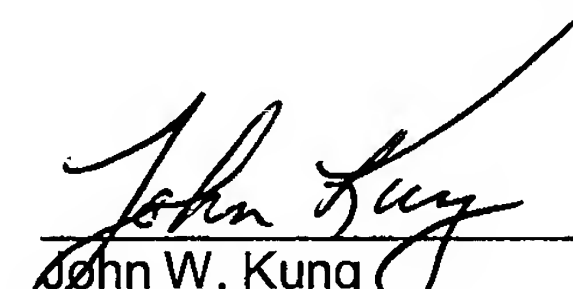
Applicant wishes to elect invention group I, *i.e.* Claims 1 through 24, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Applicant also wishes to cancel without prejudice Claims 25 through 31. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in a future patent application.

Thus, in view of the foregoing arguments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7877



John W. Kung
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 44,199

Date: *June 14, 2004*